

## Appendix V: Glossary

The following list offers definitions of key words or phrases used in the Feeding Kansas report.

**Advocacy** – Any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others. Advocacy encompasses a wide range of activities that influence policy and help find specific solutions to persistent problems. *Examples:* research, public education, policymaker education, coalition building, regulatory work, litigation, work before administrative bodies, lobbying, organizing, and voter education. *-Adapted from the Minnesota Department of Health*

**Aggregation** – The collection of food and farm products from producers to specified locations to generate quantities compatible with direct or wholesale food markets, for sale in whole form or for processing.

*-Adapted from [Minnesota Food Charter](#)*

**Distribution** – In terms of food, the process of dividing up, transporting, and delivering food to wholesale, retail, and institutional settings. *-Adapted from [Minnesota Food Charter](#)*

**Community Food System** – The interconnected steps involved in planning, producing, storing, processing, transporting, marketing, retailing, preparing, eating, and disposing of food and food packages at the community level. *-Adapted from [Minnesota Food Charter](#)*

**Community Garden** – A garden that is shared by members of a community on public or private land. Gardeners may share resources, talents, and labor to grow and produce food for themselves and/or other members of the community. There are many models that exist. (See page 5 of Clemson Cooperative Extension’s [Starting a Community Garden](#) for examples.)

**Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)** – A partnership between farmers and customers through which CSA members (typically) provide a farm with up-front capital to cover anticipated costs of the farm operation. In exchange for that capital investment, and/or their labor, CSA members receive a “share” or portion of farm products over an agreed upon period of time. Multi-farm CSAs are also possible. (See KRC’s [Finding your Niche: A Marketing Guide for Kansas Farms](#) for examples of models.)

**Cooperative (Co-op)** – An agricultural cooperative, or “farmers co-op,” is a cooperative model where farmers pool their resources in certain areas of activity. There are two main types of agricultural cooperatives: 1) [Agricultural Service Cooperatives](#), which provide services such as marketing and supplies to their farmer members; 2) [Agricultural Production Cooperatives](#), in which farmer members pool together to share production resources, such as land and machinery. In *Feeding Kansas*, the word “cooperative” refers specifically to an agricultural marketing cooperative, a type of service cooperative through which farmers (and sometimes consumers) work collaboratively to market their products.

**Farm-to-Fork Food System** – The web of activities and players that enable food from local farms to be produced, processed, aggregated, distributed, and made accessible for use at food outlets and at home. In *Feeding Kansas*, this phrase refers specifically to incorporating Kansas farms into the supply chain that

provides healthful foods to Kansans.

**Farm-to-School/ Farm-to-Preschool** – The act of schools and preschools sourcing ingredients for their menus from local farms and/or participating in on- or off-site gardening and other food production activities. Farm-to-School is the official name of a national network that supports a movement to enrich the connection communities have with fresh, healthful food and local food producers by changing food purchasing and education practices at schools, including preschools. (<http://www.farmtoschool.org/>)

**Farmers Market** – A multi-stall venue at which farmer-producers sell agricultural products directly to the general public at a central or fixed location. -[USDA AMS](#)

**Farm Stand** – A location or structure that is designed and used for selling farm produce retail, direct to customers, on the same site as the producing farm itself. These stands are typically operated by the individual farmer. Farm stands can be located in any structure besides the farmer’s residence. They may be actual stores, or simply a shed or a table. -*Adapted from Kansas Department of Health & Environment*

**Food Assistance Program** – Kansas’s version of the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program / SNAP. Managed by the Kansas Department for Children and Families, the program provides qualifying low-income households at or below 130 percent of the federal poverty level with food benefits and education on food preparation and nutrition. In Kansas, these benefits (formerly known as “food stamps”) are made available through Benefit Cards that function similarly to credit cards.

**Food Desert** – A low-income census tract where either a substantial number or share of residents have low access to a supermarket or large grocery store. -[USDA AMS](#)

**Food Hub** – “A centrally located facility with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of locally/regionally produced food products.” -*USDA*

**Food Policy Council** – A formalized group that operates as a nonprofit, quasi-governmental entity, or within a government agency, and caters to both community and local government needs. These groups can provide local, regional, or state governments, as well as residents, information and advice about various policies and programs that support community-based farm and food systems. -*American Planning Association*

**Food Security** – Access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life. -[USDA-ERS](#)

**Food Swamp** – A geographic area where an overabundance of highly-processed, calorie-rich, nutrient poor foods deluge healthful food options. -*Adapted from [The Food Section](#)*

**Food System** – The interconnected steps involved in planning, producing, storing, processing, transporting, marketing, retailing, preparing, eating, and disposing of food and food packages at any geographical scale. -*Adapted from [Minnesota Food Charter](#)*

**Healthful Food** – For the purposes of this project, healthful foods include a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and a variety of different proteins.

**Local Food** – There is no consensus about how to define “local food” in terms of the geographic distance between production and consumption. However, defining “local” based on marketing arrangements, such as farmers selling directly to consumers, is well recognized. Generally speaking, local food is food grown or raised “close to home,” defined at either a community, state, region, or even country-scale. [-USDA-ERS](#)

**Local Food and Farm Task Force** – This term is an example of an alternative title that could be attributed to a group performing the type of work described above under “Food Policy Council.”

**Policy** – Refers to any written plan or course of action designed to influence and determine decisions. When enacted, policy can ensure clear direction, consistency, and sustainability of a plan or course of action. Local policy can be limited by state policy, and both local and state policy can be limited by federal policy. *–Adapted from Minnesota Department of Health*

**Processing** – In *Feeding Kansas*, this refers to any method of altering food from its original, whole form into a new product. Processing can make healthful foods more convenient for use. However, over-processing may result in an end product that is denatured and can be detrimental to consumer health (such as those this report refers to as “calorie-dense and nutrient-poor”).

**Public Policy** – Refers to policy in which the public enters into and influences the enactment, execution, and interpretation of legislation, such as that related to public health, safety, and welfare. Public policy can refer to the principles on which laws rest, for the public good or public order. It may also refer to the decision-making and analysis of various governmental decisions. In *Feeding Kansas*, “public policy” recommendations and goals pertain to those public decisions that are codified into written policies, procedures, and laws.

**Retail Food Outlet** – Any location where food may be purchased by consumers – for consumption on- or off-site. *Examples:* restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers markets, farm stands, et cetera.

**Rural** – Encompasses all population, housing, and territories not included within an urban area. Population thresholds dividing rural from urban locations range from 2,500 to 50,000. [-United States Census Bureau](#)

**Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)** – A federal program that channels grant funds to state and tribal governments to provide qualifying seniors, at or above 185 percent of the federal poverty level, with coupons that can be exchanged for eligible foods direct from local farms. Qualifying foods include fruits, vegetables, honey, and fresh-cut herbs.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** – See “Food Assistance Program” above

**Wholesale** – The sale of agricultural products in relatively large quantities for resale. Wholesale items are generally purchased at a lower price per unit than direct-to-consumer sales, due to the volume purchased at one time. *–Adapted from Merriam Webster Dictionary*

**WIC** – A federal nutrition program that provides nutrition and health education, healthful food, and other services to Kansas families who qualify (they may earn up to 185 percent of the federal poverty level).